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INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO.

PCT/JP00/06557

INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE

25 September 2000

PRIORITY DATE CLAIMED

none

TITLE OF INVENTION

ELECTRONIC CONTRACT SAFEKEEPING METHOD, ELECTRONIC CONTRACT VERIFYING METHOD,
CONTRACTOR SERVER, CONTRACT SAFEKEEPING SERVER, ELECTRONIC CONTRACT SAFEKEEPING
SYSTEM, AND MEMORY MEDIUM

APPLICANT(S) FOR DO/EO/US

KUDO Toshiyuki

Applicant herewith submits to the United States Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US) the following items and other information:

1. ☒ This is a **FIRST** submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.
2. ☐ This is a **SECOND** or **SUBSEQUENT** submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.
3. ☒ This is an express request to begin national examination procedures (35 U.S.C. 371(f)). The submission must include items (5), (6), (9) and (24) indicated below.
4. ☐ The US has been elected by the expiration of 19 months from the priority date (Article 31).
5. ☒ A copy of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371 (c) (2))
 - a. ☒ is attached hereto (required only if not communicated by the International Bureau).
 - b. ☐ has been communicated by the International Bureau.
 - c. ☐ is not required, as the application was filed in the United States Receiving Office (RO/US).
6. ☒ An English language translation of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)).
 - a. ☒ is attached hereto.
 - b. ☐ has been previously submitted under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4).
7. ☒ Amendments to the claims of the International Application under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371 (c)(3))
 - a. ☐ are attached hereto (required only if not communicated by the International Bureau).
 - b. ☐ have been communicated by the International Bureau.
 - c. ☐ have not been made; however, the time limit for making such amendments has NOT expired.
 - d. ☒ have not been made and will not be made.
8. ☐ An English language translation of the amendments to the claims under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)).
9. ☐ An oath or declaration of the inventor(s) (35 U.S.C. 371 (c)(4)).
10. ☐ An English language translation of the annexes of the International Preliminary Examination Report under PCT Article 36 (35 U.S.C. 371 (c)(5)).
11. ☐ A copy of the International Preliminary Examination Report (PCT/IPEA/409).
12. ☒ A copy of the International Search Report (PCT/ISA/210).

Items 13 to 20 below concern document(s) or information included:

13. ☐ An Information Disclosure Statement under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98.
14. ☐ An assignment document for recording. A separate cover sheet in compliance with 37 CFR 3.28 and 3.31 is included.
15. ☐ A **FIRST** preliminary amendment.
16. ☐ A **SECOND** or **SUBSEQUENT** preliminary amendment.
17. ☐ A substitute specification.
18. ☐ A change of power of attorney and/or address letter.
19. ☐ A computer-readable form of the sequence listing in accordance with PCT Rule 13ter.2 and 35 U.S.C. 1.821 - 1.825.
20. ☐ A second copy of the published international application under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4).
21. ☐ A second copy of the English language translation of the international application under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4).
22. ☐ Certificate of Mailing by Express Mail
23. ☒ Other items or information:

Request for Consideration of Documents Cited in International Search Report

Drawings (4 Sheets)

PCT/RO/101

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518 Rec'd PCT/PTO 12 SEP 2001
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ELECTRONIC CONTRACT SAFEKEEPING METHOD, ELECTRONIC CONTRACT
VERIFYING METHOD, CONTRACTOR SERVER, CONTRACT SAFEKEEPING SERVER,
ELECTRONIC CONTRACT SAFEKEEPING SYSTEM, AND MEMORY MEDIUM

5 SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

TECHNICAL FIELD

[0001] The present invention relates to an electronic contract
safekeeping method, an electronic contract verifying method, a
contractor server, a contract safekeeping server, an electronic
10 contract safekeeping system, and a memory medium, all through a
network.

Background Art

[0002] When engaged in business, it is customary to enter into
15 a contract: at the dealings of a commodity, a sales contract is
concluded between a distributor of the commodity and a purchaser
thereof, for instance.

[0003] Recently, there is an increasing tendency in dealing
commodities through the internet. In some cases, on a homepage
20 for sales of a distributor of the commodities, a contractual
coverage is displayed. Based on this contractual coverage, a
contract is concluded.

Disclosure of the Invention

25 [0004] However, after the sales of the commodities (after
conclusion of the contract), the contractual coverage on the
homepage for sales may be superseded.

[0005] At that time, between the distributor and the purchaser,

there may occur a discrepancy in understanding of the contractual coverage at the conclusion of the contract.

[0006] At that time, the purchaser is necessitated to verify the contractual coverage at the conclusion of the contract. When the purchaser cannot verify the above, the purchaser may suffer unreasonable losses.

[0007] The present invention is to these existing problems. An object of the present invention is to provide a method that, even when the contractual coverage on a home page for sales has been superseded, enables the purchaser (covenantee) to verify the contractual coverage (purport of the contract).

[0008] Another object of the present invention is to provide an electronic contract safekeeping method and an electronic contract safekeeping system, in which a third party other than the contractor keeps the contractual coverage, and, as demands arise, may verify the contractual coverage.

[0009] (1) In order to achieve the above objects, a contract safekeeping method involving the present invention comprises causing to display the contractual coverage, causing to input safekeeping agreement information to agree, causing to keep the contractual coverage, causing to issue a contract ID, and causing to notify of the ID. In the above, in the causing to display the contractual coverage, the contractual coverage is caused to display at a covenantee terminal connected to a contractor server therein the contractual coverage is kept. In the causing to input the safekeeping agreement information to agree, the safekeeping agreement information agreeing to the safekeeping of the contractual coverage caused to display in the causing to display

the contractual coverage is caused to input to agree at the covenantee terminal. In the causing to keep the contractual coverage, the contract safekeeping server is caused to keep the contractual coverage corresponding to the safekeeping agreement information caused to input in the causing to input the contract safekeeping agreement information to agree. In the causing to issue the ID, a contract ID for identifying the contractual coverage kept in the causing to keep the contractual coverage is caused to issue. In the causing to notify of the ID, the contract ID caused to issue in the causing to issue the ID is caused to notify to the contract server and the covenantee terminal.

[0010] Being kept in the contract safekeeping server different from both the contractor server and the covenantee terminal, there is no fear of the contractual coverage being altered. By making access to the contract safekeeping server, the contractual coverage may be confirmed and verified.

[0011] (2) A method for verifying the electronic contract involving the present invention comprises the covenantee terminal entering into connection with the contract safekeeping server, inputting the contract ID, and exhibiting the contractual coverage. In the above, in the inputting the contract ID, at the covenantee terminal, the contract ID of the contractual coverage kept at the contract safekeeping server is input. In the exhibiting the contractual coverage, to the covenantee terminal, the contractual coverage corresponding to the contract ID that is input at inputting the contract ID is exhibited.

[0012] When the covenantee terminal enters into a connection with the contract safekeeping server and shows the contract ID, the

contractual coverage is exhibited, thereby the contractual coverage being verified.

[0013] (3) The contractor server involving the present invention comprises a contractual coverage notifying portion, a contract safekeeping agreement receiving portion, a contract safekeeping requesting portion, and a contract ID transferring portion. In the above, the contractual coverage notifying portion notifies the covenantee terminal of the contractual coverage. The contract safekeeping agreement receiving portion encourages the covenantee terminal notified of the contractual coverage by the contractual coverage notifying portion to input safekeeping agreement information agreeing to the safekeeping of the contractual coverage, and receives the safekeeping agreement information. The contract safekeeping requesting portion, corresponding to the reception of the safekeeping agreement information by the contract safekeeping agreement receiving portion, requests the contractor server to keep the contractual coverage. The contract ID transferring portion, notified by the contract safekeeping server of the contract ID identifying the contract kept corresponding to the request due to the contract safekeeping requesting portion, to transmit the contract ID to the covenantee terminal.

[0014] The contractual coverage notified by the contractor server is kept in the contract safekeeping server. Accordingly, the contract may be concluded between the covenantee terminal and the contractor server without fearing the superceding of the contractual coverage.

[0015] (4) The contract safekeeping server involving the present

invention comprises a contract safekeeping request receiving portion, a contract safekeeping instructing portion, a contract ID issuing portion, and a contract ID notifying portion. In the above, the contract safekeeping request receiving portion receives a safekeeping request of the contractual coverage. The contract safekeeping instructing portion instructs to keep the contractual coverage of which safekeeping request is received at the contract safekeeping request receiving portion. The contract ID issuing portion issues the contract ID identifying the contract of which safekeeping request is received at the contract safekeeping request receiving portion. The contract ID notifying portion notifies of the contract ID issued at the contract ID issuing portion.

[0016] The contract ID is issued and notified for the kept contractual coverage, by making access to the contract safekeeping server with the contract ID, the contractual coverage may be confirmed.

Brief Explanation of the Drawings

[0017] Fig. 1 is a block diagram showing a configuration of a contract safekeeping system involving the present invention.

[0018] Fig. 2 is a flow chart showing rough procedures in the contract safekeeping system shown in Fig. 1.

[0019] Fig. 3 is a flow chart showing in detail a step S 100 (contract safekeeping step) shown in Fig. 2.

[0020] Fig. 4 is a diagram showing one example of a display screen displaying a contractual coverage at a covenantee terminal of a contract safekeeping system.

[0021] Fig. 5 is a diagram showing one example of a display screen at a covenantee terminal at the reception of a contract ID.

[0022] Fig. 6 is a flow chart showing in detail a step S 200 (contract verifying step) shown in Fig. 2.

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Modes for Implementing the Invention

[0023] In the following, modes for implementing the present invention will be explained in detail with reference to the drawings.

10 [0024] Fig. 1 is a block diagram showing a configuration of a contract safekeeping system involving the present invention. As shown in Fig. 1, a contractor server 10 and a covenantee terminal 20, and a contract safekeeping server 30 are interconnected to each other through a network 40 such as the Internet.

15 [0025] The contractor server 10, a server computer of the distributor of commodities for instance, opens a home page including a page for contract (a page for dealing commodities, for instance) on the network 40.

20 [0026] The covenantee terminal 20, a computer of the purchaser of the commodities for instance, enters into a connection through the network 40 with the contractor server 10 to browse the content of the home page of the contractor server 10. Thereby, the covenantee terminal may purchase the commodities and conclude the contract at that time through the network 40.

25 [0027] The contract safekeeping server 30 keeps the contractual coverage concluded between the contractor server 10 and the covenantee terminal 20, and verifies the contractual coverage.

[0028] Though only one covenantee terminal 20 is shown in Fig.

1, actually it is usual that a lot of covenantee terminals 20 are connected to the network 40. Furthermore, one contract safekeeping server 30 may keep the contractual coverage of a plurality of contractor servers 10.

5 [0029] In addition, there may be a plurality of the contract safekeeping servers 30 for one contractor server 10. As mentioned below, at that time, as needs arise, the contract safekeeping server 30 may be designated to keep the respective contractual coverage.

10 [0030] The contractor server 10 comprises a contractual coverage notifying portion 11, a contract safekeeping agreement receiving portion 12, a contract safekeeping requesting portion 13, a contract ID transferring portion 14, and a transmitting and receiving portion 15.

15 [0031] The contractual coverage notifying portion 11 notifies, through the network 40, the covenantee terminal 20 of the contractual coverage. The contract safekeeping agreement receiving portion 12 encourages the covenantee terminal 20 to input the safekeeping agreement information agreeing to the
20 safekeeping of the contractual coverage, and receives the safekeeping agreement information. The contract safekeeping requesting portion 13, in accordance with the reception of the safekeeping agreement information by the contract safekeeping agreement receiving portion 12, requests the contract safekeeping
25 server 30 to keep the contractual coverage. The contract ID transferring portion 14, notified from the contract safekeeping server 30 of the contract ID (IDentification) for identifying the contract kept according to the request by the contract safekeeping

requesting portion 13, transfers the contract ID to the covenantee terminal 20. The transmitting and receiving portion 15 enters into a connection with the network 40 to implement the transmission and reception of the contract ID and so on between both the covenantee terminal 20 and the contract safekeeping server 30.

[0032] The covenantee server 20 includes a display portion 21, an input portion 22, a memory portion 23, and a transmission and reception portion 24.

[0033] The display portion 21, display means such as CRTs, LCDs and so on for instance, browses on the home page of the contractor server 10 and displays the contractual coverage. The input portion 22, a keyboard, a mouse and so on for instance, inputs the safekeeping agreement information agreeing to the safekeeping of the contractual coverage. The memory portion 23 includes, besides a memory device such as a memory or the like, an auxiliary memory device such as for instance a hard disk or the like, and memorizes the information such as the contract ID or the like. The transmitting and receiving portion 24 enters into a connection with the network 40 to transmit and receive the information between both the contractor server 10 and the contract safekeeping server 30.

[0034] The contract safekeeping server 30 comprises a contract safekeeping request receiving portion 31, a contract safekeeping instructing portion 32, a contract ID issuing portion 33, a contract ID notifying portion 34, a kept contract exhibiting portion 35, a contract ID confirmation receiving portion 36, and a transmitting and receiving portion 37. Thereto a contract

safekeeping DB (database) 38 constituted of an auxiliary memory device such as a hard disk or the like is connected for safekeeping the contractual coverage.

[0035] The contract safekeeping request receiving portion 31 receives a safekeeping request of the contractual coverage from the contract server 10. The contract safekeeping instructing portion 32, in accordance with the reception of the safekeeping request at the contract safekeeping request receiving portion 31, instructs to keep the contractual coverage. Based on the instruction, the contractual coverage is kept in the contract safekeeping DB 38. The contract ID issuing portion 33, in accordance with the reception of the safekeeping request at the contract safekeeping request receiving portion 31, issues the contract ID for identifying the contractual coverage. The contract ID notifying portion 34 notifies the contractor server 10 of the contract ID issued by the contract ID issuing portion 33. The kept contract presenting portion 35, in accordance with the exhibition of the contract ID from the covenantee terminal 20 or the contractor server 10, notifies (exhibit) the contractual coverage corresponding to the contract ID. The contract ID confirmation receiving portion 36 receives the contract ID confirmation information to the effect that the contract ID notified by the contract ID notifying portion 34 is confirmed. The transmitting and receiving portion 37 enters into a connection with the network 40 to transmit and receive the information such as the contract ID or the like between both the contractor server 10 and covenantee terminal 20.

[0036] The above contractor server 10 and the contract

safekeeping server 30 are configured by materializing, by means of a contract safekeeping software and a contract safekeeping and verification software held therein respectively, the respective functions on the computer. The contract safekeeping software and the contract safekeeping and verification software, at the safekeeping of the contractual coverage, work with each other through the network 40.

[0037] Fig. 2 is a flowchart showing rough procedures in the contract safekeeping system shown in Fig. 1. The contractual coverage concluded between the contractor server 10 and the covenantee terminal 20 is kept at the contract safekeeping server 30 (step S 100). Thereafter, the contractual coverage kept at the contract safekeeping server 30, as needs arise, is called up to use for verifying the contractual coverage (step S 200).

[0038] Fig. 3 is a flowchart showing in detail contract safekeeping procedures shown in step S 100 in Fig. 2.

[0039] (1) The covenantee terminal 20 enters into a connection with the contractor server 10 (step S 101) and browses the home page of for instance commodity sales disposed at the contractor server 10.

[0040] The content being browsed is displayed on the display portion 21 of the covenantee terminal 20. The covenantee (purchaser) confirms the commodity on the home page through the display portion 21 to determine which commodity to purchase.

[0041] (2) The contractual coverage is displayed at the covenantee terminal 20 (step S 102).

[0042] When, at the purchase of the commodity, the contract is necessary to be concluded, the contractual coverage is exhibited

by the contractual coverage notifying portion 11 of the contractor server 10, the contractual coverage being displayed at the covenantee terminal 20. Specifically, on the basis of the instruction from the contractual coverage notifying portion 11, the information of the contractual coverage reaches through the transmitting and receiving portion 15 to the covenantee terminal 20, thereby the contractual coverage being exhibited. The contractual coverage exhibited at the covenantee terminal 20 is displayed at the display portion 21. The contractual coverage may be shown in the home page of the contractor server 10.

[0043] Fig. 4 is a diagram showing one example of a display screen, in which the contractual coverage is displayed. In the upper portion of the screen, the contractual coverage 50 is shown. In the lower portion thereof, a button 51 for "agreeing to the contractual coverage and keeping the contractual coverage", a button 52 for "agreeing to the contractual coverage but not keeping the contractual coverage", and a button 53 for "not agreeing to the contractual coverage" are shown.

[0044] These buttons 51 through 53 correspond to the input of the contract agreement information to the effect of agreeing to the contract and the safekeeping agreement information to the effect of agreeing to keep the contractual coverage. To click the button 51 means to input both the contract agreement information and the safekeeping agreement information.

Furthermore, to click the button 52 means to input only the contract agreement information, to click the button 53 meaning to input neither the contract agreement information nor the safekeeping agreement information.

[0045] (3) The safekeeping agreement information is input at the covenantee terminal 20 (step S 103).

[0046] When the button 51 is clicked at the covenantee terminal 20, the safekeeping agreement information is input. The contract safekeeping agreement receiving portion 12 of the contractor server 10 receives the safekeeping agreement information that is input.

[0047] The contractual coverage is kept at the contract safekeeping server 30. However, when there is a plurality of contract safekeeping servers 30, the contract safekeeping server 30 may be selected therefrom for keeping the contract. The contract safekeeping server 30 may be selected from the covenantee terminal 20. For instance, it may be implemented by inputting an IP address of the contract safekeeping server 30 from the covenantee terminal 20. Furthermore, it may be selected from a plurality of servers exhibited on the home page of the contractor server 10.

[0048] When the contract safekeeping server 30 is specified thus, all of the following procedures such as the contract safekeeping or the like is carried out at the specified contract safekeeping server 30.

[0049] The contractual coverage may be kept at a plurality of the contract safekeeping servers 30. When the same contractual coverage is kept at the plurality of contract safekeeping servers 30, security in contract safekeeping and verification may be improved.

[0050] (4) The contractor server 10 makes a request to the contract safekeeping server 30 to keep the contractual coverage

(step S 104).

[0051] This request is carried out on the basis of the information from the contract safekeeping requesting portion 13. At that time, in the information sent from the contract safekeeping requesting portion 13, there are the contractual coverage, the safekeeping requesting information to the effect of requesting to keep the contractual coverage, and the information identifying the contractor and the covenantee (address, name, and, as the case may be, contractor ID and the covenantee ID). Furthermore, the contract relating information such as purchasing amount (turnover), effective term of the contract, contract date and so on may be included.

[0052] (5) The contractual coverage is kept at the contract safekeeping server 30 (step S 105).

[0053] At the instruction from the contract safekeeping instructing portion 32, the contractual coverage is kept on the contract safekeeping DB 38. At this time, the information identifying the contractor and the covenantee sent together with the contractual coverage is also kept, and furthermore the contract relating information such as the sales amount (turnover), the effective term of the contract, the contract date and so on may be kept.

[0054] For the sake of easy browsing of the contractual coverage, the contract may be kept separated according to the contractor, contract division and so on.

[0055] (6) The contract ID issuing portion 33 of the contract safekeeping server 30 issues the contract ID to identify the contracts that are kept (step S 106).

[0056] The contract ID may be constituted by appropriately combining character, numeral, code and so on. When the information corresponding to the contract, characters and numerals expressing the contract date for instance ("Sep. 20. 2000" as one example), is used in part of the contract ID for instance, it is convenient from a viewpoint of comparing with the contract.

[0057] As needs arise, a password pairing with the contract ID is issued. When the contract safekeeping server 30 is configured so that the contractual coverage may be disclosed only when both the contract ID and the password are exhibited, security is improved in safekeeping and verification of the contractual coverage.

[0058] The contract ID and the password may be differentiated between the contractor server 10 and the covenantee terminal 20. When implementing thus, the contractor server 10 and the covenantee terminal 20 may manage separately the contract ID and password. Accordingly, the password may be conveniently altered according to the respective necessity.

[0059] (7) The contract ID notifying portion 34 notifies, through the transmitting and receiving portion 37, the contractor server 10 of the contract ID issued at the contract ID issuing portion (step S 107).

[0060] When the password is issued, the information including the password is notified to the contractor server 10. The contract ID and the password, when different between the contractor server 10 and the covenantee terminal 20, may be codified to send, so that the information of the contract ID and

the password of the covenantee terminal 20 may not be disclosed to the contractor server 10.

[0061] (8) The contract ID that the contractor server has received is further transferred by the contract ID transferring portion 14 to the covenantee terminal 20 and received by the covenantee terminal 20 (step S 108).

[0062] The transferred content is exhibited, on the home page of the contractor server 10, only to the covenantee terminal 20.

[0063] Fig. 5 is a diagram showing one example of a display screen on the covenantee terminal 20 when receiving the contract ID. As shown in Fig. 5, on the display screen, there are arranged the contractual coverage 60, other contract related information 61 including the contract ID, a memoranda input screen 62 for encouraging to input the memoranda, a "confirmation" button 63, and a "contract-out" button 64.

[0064] At the covenantee terminal 20, the contractual coverage 60 and the other contract related information 61 including the contract ID are confirmed. In the memoranda input screen 62, as needs arise, memoranda information such as notes or the like is input.

[0065] To click the "confirmation" button 63 means to input the confirmation information that the contractual coverage, the contract related information, and the contract ID are confirmed. To input the "contract-out" button 64 means to input cancel desire information to the effect that due to some flaw in the contractual coverage and the contract related information, the "contract-out" is desired.

[0066] When the "contract-out" button 64 is clicked, the inputted

"contract-out" desire information is sent, through the contractor server 10, to the contract safekeeping server 30. The contract safekeeping server 30 erases the contractual coverage, contract related information or the like that are kept from on the contract safekeeping DB 38.

[0067] The password, when issued, may be displayed on the home page of the contractor server 10, but may be separately sent through an electronic mail or the like.

[0068] (9) At the covenantee terminal, the confirmation information to the effect that the contract ID is confirmed is input (step S 109).

[0069] The covenantee confirms the contractual coverage and the contract related information including the contract ID. When there is no flaw, by clicking the "confirmation" button 63, the confirmation information to the effect that the contract ID is confirmed is input.

[0070] The confirmation information and memoranda information that are input are transferred, through the contractor server 10, to the contract safekeeping server 30.

[0071] Before and after clicking the "confirmation" button 63, a new password may be input to change the password corresponding to the contract ID. Thereby, confidentiality in safekeeping the contract may be heightened.

[0072] (10) The confirmation information and memo information, sent to the contract safekeeping server 30, are received by the contract ID confirmation receiving portion 36, and are kept additionally together with the already kept contractual coverage on the contract safekeeping DB 38 (step S 110).

[0073] Everything is over for the contractual coverage safekeeping step S 100 shown in Fig. 2.

[0074] Next, the detail of the contractual coverage verifying S 200 shown in Fig. 2 will be explained.

5 [0075] Fig. 6 is a flowchart showing in detail step S 200 shown in Fig. 2.

[0076] (1) The covenantee terminal 20 enters into a connection with the contract safekeeping server 10 (step S 201).

10 [0077] It is convenient, for the sake of inputting and displaying at the covenantee terminal 20, to open a home page for verifying the contract on the contract safekeeping server 30 for instance.

[0078] (2) At the covenantee terminal 20, the contract ID and the password according to necessity are input (step S 202).

15 [0079] This is input in the input column of the contract ID on the home page for verifying the contract for instance. Only when the contract ID and the password corresponding thereto are right, at the next step S 203 the contractual coverage is exhibited.

[0080] (3) At the covenantee terminal 20, the contractual coverage is exhibited (step S 203).

20 [0081] The exhibition is implemented when, according to the instruction of the kept contract presenting portion 35 of the contract safekeeping server 30, the contractual coverage corresponding to the contract ID reaches through the transmitting and receiving portion 37 to the covenantee terminal 20.

25 [0082] (4) At the covenantee terminal 20, the contractual coverage that is sent from the contract safekeeping server 30 is conformed (step S 204).

[0083] The confirmation may be implemented by inspecting the

contractual coverage, the contract related information or the like on the home page of the contract safekeeping server 30, or by printing out the contractual coverage sent through the electronic mail from the contract safekeeping server 30.

5 [0084] In short, when the contractual coverage is confirmed, any means for transmitting from the contract safekeeping server 30 and for confirming at the covenantee terminal 20 may be adopted.

[0085] The aforementioned modes for implementation may be expanded and changed within the scope of the present invention, 10 the expanded and changed content being included within the technical range of the present invention.

[0086] For instance, as the contract, without restricting to the contract made and concluded at the sales of commodities, contracts in general may be included. That is, the contractor and the 15 covenantee, without restricting to the distributor or the purchaser of the commodities, may be any parties interested in the contract in general.

[0087] Furthermore, in the present mode for implementation, the contract is made and concluded through the home page of the 20 contractor server. However, it is not necessarily restricted thereto, but the cases where other means such as the electronic mail or the like is used to conclude the contract may be included.

[0088] The contract safekeeping server, other than simply keeping the contracts, may implement management of the contracts, 25 such as version management when the contractual coverage is revised for instance. Thereby, when the contract safekeeping request is received, the presence of the old version contract may be notified. Furthermore, the time limit control of the contract

term and the revision term may be implemented. As needs arise, the covenantee terminal or the like may be notified of an approach of the expiration of the contract.

[0089] Information exchange between the contractor server, the covenantee terminal, and the contract verifying server on the network may be appropriately codified for the confidentiality's sake of the contractual coverage or the like.

[0090] As the network, without restricting to Internet, the network in general such as LAN (Local Area Network), WAN (Wide Area Network) or the like may be included.

Industrial Applicability

[0091] In the present contract safekeeping method, the contractual coverage made and concluded between the contractor server and the covenantee terminal is kept at the contract safekeeping server. Thereby, later the covenantee terminal or the contractor server may confirm the contractual coverage.

[0092] Accordingly, the present invention may provide a contract safekeeping system capable of keeping and confirming the contractual coverage, and the contractor server, the covenantee terminal and the contract verifying server constituting the system.

What is claimed is:

1. An electronic contract safekeeping method, comprising:
contractual coverage display where a covenantee terminal
connected to a contractor server therein information of a
contractual coverage is kept, is caused to display the contractual
coverage;

contract safekeeping agreement where the covenantee
terminal is caused to input safekeeping agreement information
agreeing to keep the contractual coverage caused to display in
the contractual coverage displaying;

contract safekeeping where a contract safekeeping server
is caused to keep the contractual coverage corresponding to the
safekeeping agreement information caused to input by the contract
safekeeping agreement;

ID issue where a contract ID for identifying the contractual
coverage caused to keep in the contract safekeeping is caused to
issue; and

ID notification where the contract ID caused to issue in
the ID issue is caused to notify the contractor server and the
covenantee terminal.

2. An electronic contract safekeeping method as set forth
in claim 1, further comprising:

ID confirmation where the contractor terminal is caused to
input confirmation information expressing that the contract ID
caused to notify at the ID notification is confirmed; and

confirmation safekeeping where the contract safekeeping
server is caused to keep the confirmation information caused to
input at the ID confirmation.

3. An electronic contract safekeeping method, comprising:
safekeeping agreement input where a covenantee terminal is
encouraged to input whether agreeing to the safekeeping of the
contractual coverage or not;

5 safekeeping request where, when the agreement to keep the
contractual coverage is input in accordance with the
encouragement of the input at the safekeeping agreement input,
the contract safekeeping server is requested to keep the
contractual coverage;

10 ID notification where of the contractual coverage kept at
the contract safekeeping server in accordance with the request
in the safekeeping request input, a contract ID for identifying
the contract is notified from the contract safekeeping server;
and

15 ID transfer where the contract ID notified at the ID
notification is transferred to the covenantee terminal.

4. An electronic contract safekeeping method as set forth
in claim 3:

20 wherein prior to the safekeeping agreement input, the
contractual coverage is exhibited to the covenantee terminal.

5. An electronic contract safekeeping method as set forth
in claim 3:

25 wherein the safekeeping agreement input includes contract
agreement input that encourages the covenantee terminal to input
whether agreeing to the contractual coverage or not;

wherein the safekeeping request is implemented when the
contract agreement information is input in the contract agreement
input.

6. An electronic contract safekeeping method as set forth in claim 3, further comprising:

server ID input where the contractor server encourages the covenantee to input a contract safekeeping server ID for
5 identifying the contract safekeeping server;

wherein the safekeeping request of the contractual coverage in the safekeeping request, to the contract safekeeping server corresponding to the contract safekeeping server ID that is input in accordance with the encouragement at the server ID input,
10 instructs to keep the contractual coverage and to issue the contract ID.

7. An electronic contract safekeeping method as set forth in claim 3:

wherein there is a plurality of the contract safekeeping
15 servers, the contract safekeeping server for keeping the contractual coverage being selected from the plurality of the contract safekeeping servers.

8. An electronic contract safekeeping method as set forth in claim 3:

20 wherein there is a plurality of the contract safekeeping servers, the contractual coverage being kept in the plurality of the contract safekeeping servers.

9. An electronic contract verifying method, comprising:
connection where a covenantee terminal enters into a
25 connection with a contract safekeeping server;

ID input where a covenantee terminal inputs a contract ID of the contractual coverage kept at the contract safekeeping server; and

contractual coverage exhibition where the contractual coverage corresponding to the contract ID that is input at the ID input is exhibited to the covenantee terminal.

10. A contractor server, comprising:

5 a contractual coverage notifying portion for notifying a covenantee terminal of the contractual coverage;

a contract safekeeping agreement receiving portion that encourages the covenantee terminal notified of the contractual coverage by the contractual coverage notifying portion to input
10 safekeeping agreement information agreeing to keep the contractual coverage, and receives the safekeeping agreement information;

a contract safekeeping requesting portion that requests, corresponding to reception of the safekeeping agreement
15 information due to the contract safekeeping agreement receiving portion, for a contract safekeeping server to keep the contractual coverage; and

a contract ID transferring portion that, notified of the contract ID identifying the contract kept in accordance with the
20 request due to the contract safekeeping requesting portion from the contract safekeeping server, transfers the contract ID to covenantee terminal.

11. A contract safekeeping server, comprising:

a contract safekeeping request receiving portion for
25 receiving a safekeeping request of a contractual coverage;

a contract safekeeping instructing portion for instructing to keep the contractual coverage of which safekeeping request is received at the contract safekeeping request receiving portion;

a contract ID issuing portion for issuing a contract ID that identifies the contract of which the safekeeping request is received at the contract safekeeping request receiving portion; and

5 a contract ID notifying portion for notifying the contract ID issued at the contract ID issuing portion.

12. A contract safekeeping server as set forth in claim 9, further comprising:

10 a safekeeping contract exhibiting portion for exhibiting, in accordance with reception of the contract ID, the contractual coverage corresponding to the contract ID; and

a contract ID confirmation receiving portion for receiving contract ID confirmation information showing that the contract ID notified by the contract ID notifying portion is confirmed.

15 13. An electronic contract safekeeping system, comprising:

the contractor server set forth in claim 10; and

the contract safekeeping server set forth in claim 11.

20 14. A recording medium, wherein a program for causing to function a computer as the contractor server set forth in claim 10 or the contract safekeeping server set forth in claim 11 is recorded.

15. A recording medium, wherein a program is recorded to implement the contract safekeeping method set forth in claim 4.

FIG. 1

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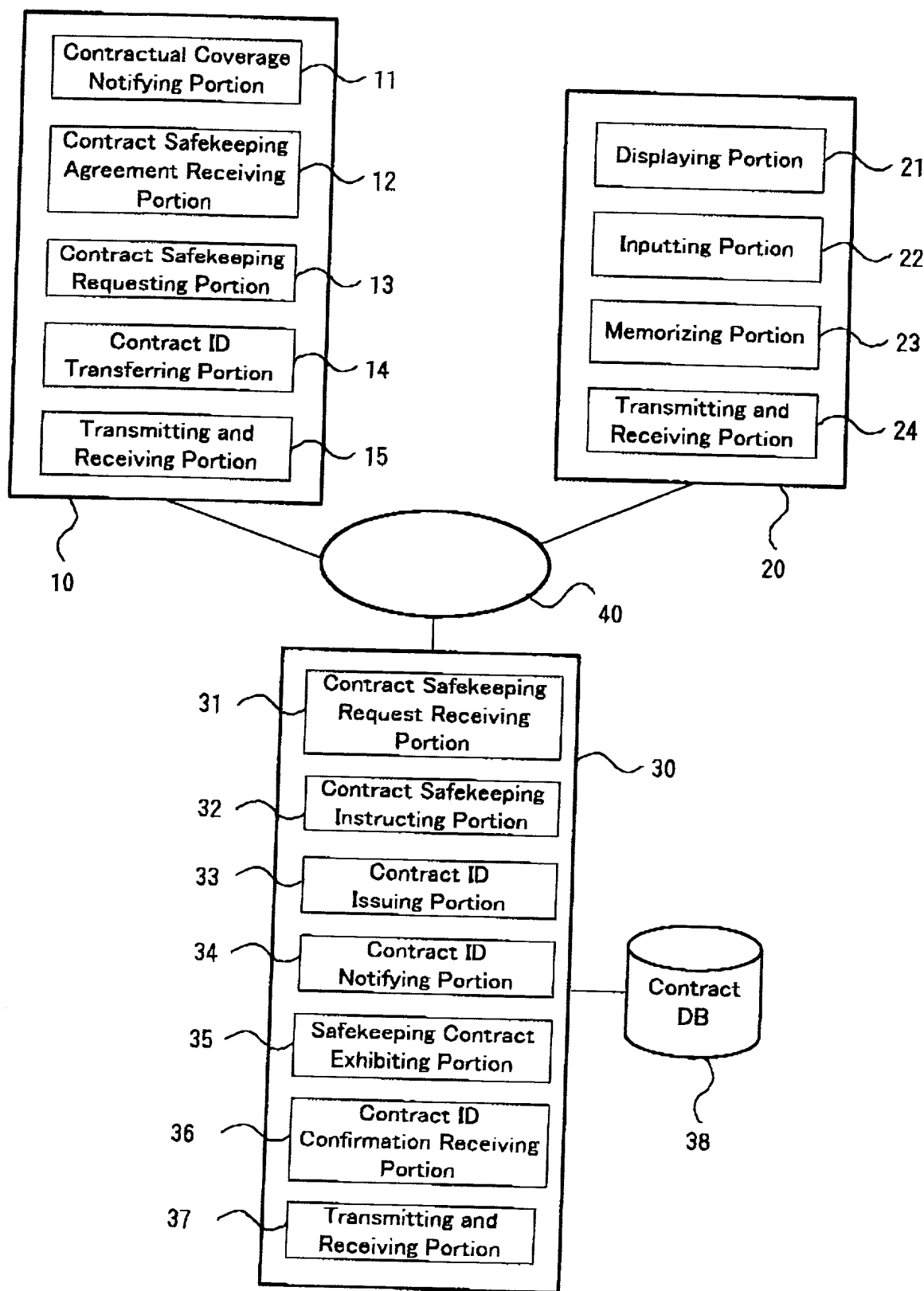


FIG. 2

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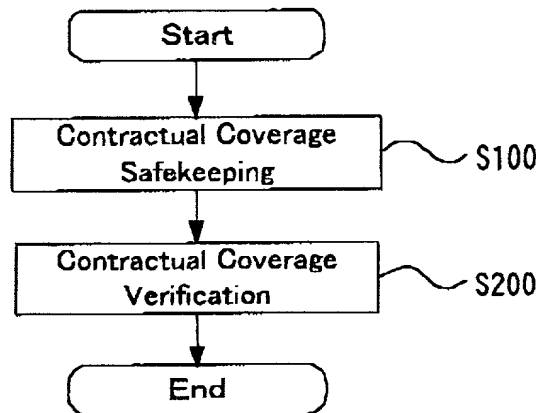
DOCKET # 213911US2PT SHEET 2 OF 4

FIG. 4

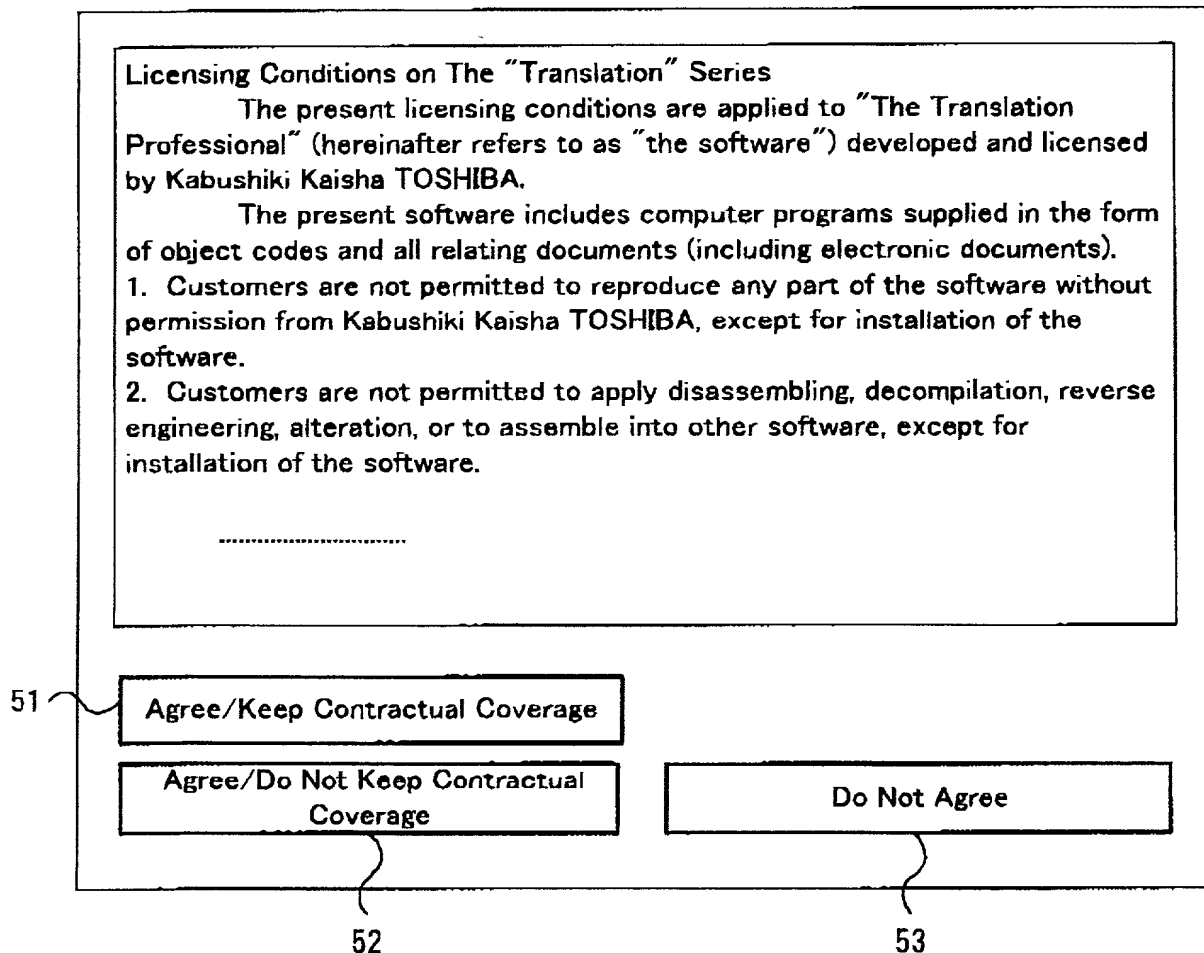
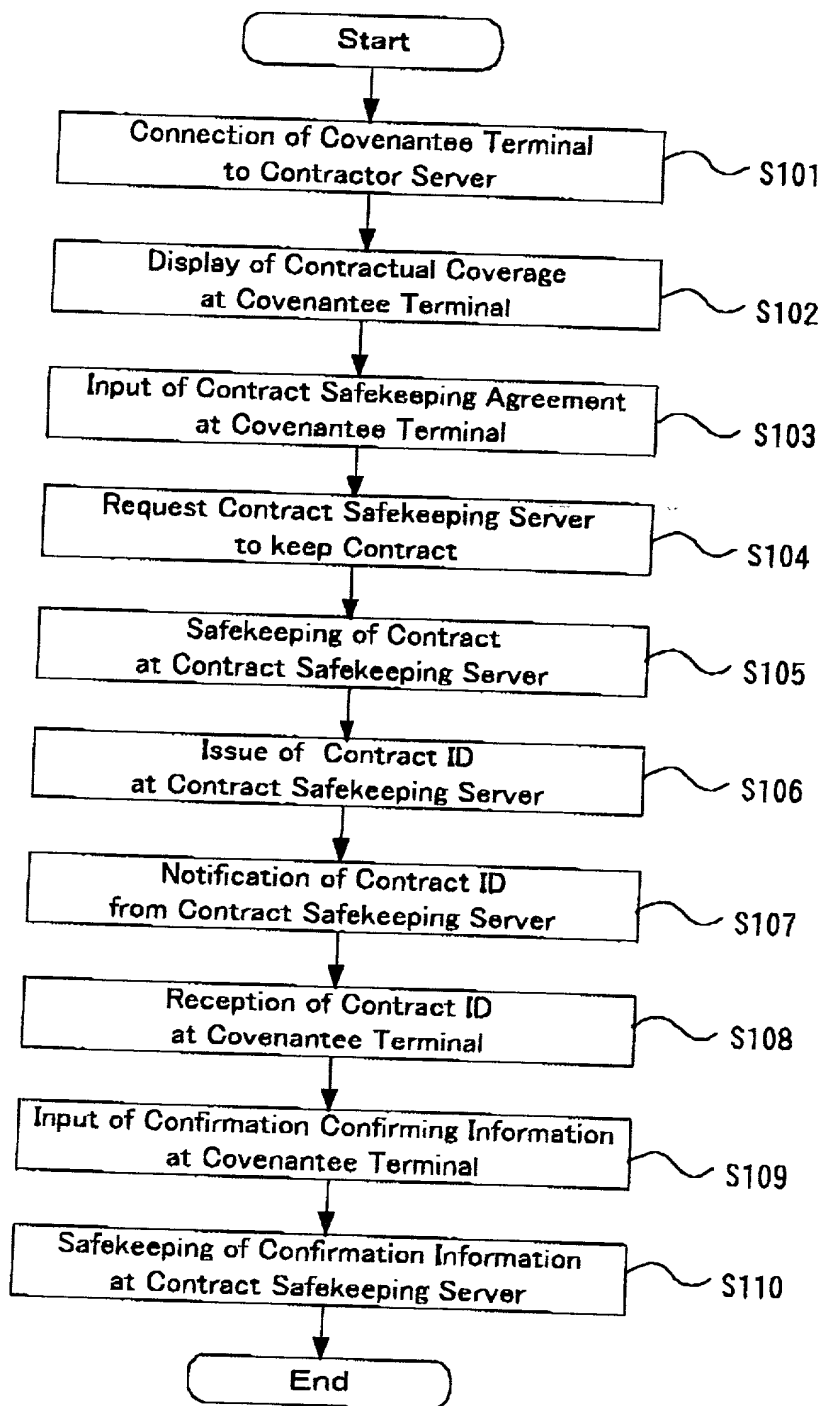


FIG. 3

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FIG. 5

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Licensing Conditions on The "Translation" Series

The present licensing conditions are applied to "The Translation Professional" (hereinafter refers to as "the software") developed and licensed by Kabushiki Kaisha TOSHIBA.

The present software includes computer programs supplied in the form of object codes and all relating documents (including electronic documents).

1. Customers are not permitted to reproduce any part of the software without permission from Kabushiki Kaisha TOSHIBA, except for installation of the software.

2. Customers are not permitted to apply disassembling, decompilation, reverse engineering, alteration, or to assemble into other software, except for installation of the software.

61

Contractor: A company
Covenantee: Ichiro Yamada
Contract Date: Sept. 20, 2000
Contract ID: xxxxx

62

Memo:

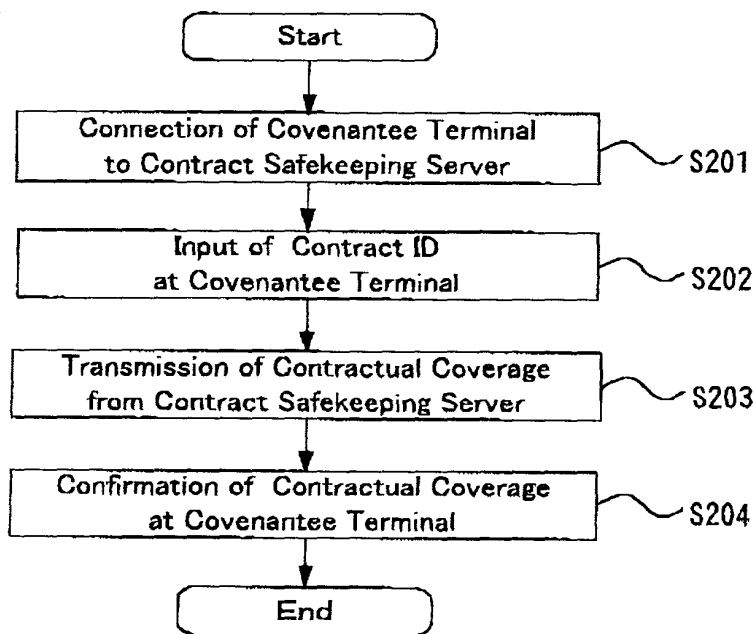
63

Confirmation

64

Contract-Out

FIG. 6



Declaration and Power of Attorney For Patent Application

特許出願宣言書及び委任状

Japanese Language Declaration

日本語宣言書

下記の氏名の発明者として、私は以下の通り宣言します。

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

私の住所、私書箱、国籍は下記の私の氏名の後に記載された通りです。

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated next to my name.

下記の名称の発明に関して請求範囲に記載され、特許出願して
る発明内容について、私が最初かつ唯一の発明者（下記の氏
名が一つの場合）もしくは最初かつ共同発明者（下記の名称が
複数の場合）であると信じています。

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one
name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if
plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is
claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention
entitled.

ELECTRONIC CONTRACT SAFEKEEPING METHOD.

ELECTRONIC CONTRACT VERIFYING METHOD,
CONTRACTOR SERVER, CONTRACT SAFEKEEPING
SERVER, ELECTRONIC CONTRACT SAFEKEEPING
SYSTEM, AND MEMORY MEDIUM

the specification of which

上記発明の明細書は、

☐ 本書に添付されています。

☐ is attached hereto.

☒ 月 日に提出され、米国出願番号または特許協定条
約国際出願番号を _____ とし、
(該当する場合) _____ に訂正されました。

☒ was filed on September 25, 2000
as United States Application Number or
PCT International Application Number
PCT/JP00/06557 and was amended on
_____ (if applicable).

私は、特許請求範囲を含む上記訂正後の明細書を検討し、内容
を理解していることをここに表明します。

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the
contents of the above identified specification, including the
claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

私は、連邦規則法典第37編第1条56項に定義されるとおり、特許
資格の有無について重要な情報を開示する義務があることを認
めます。

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material
to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal
Regulations, Section 1.56.

Japanese Language Declaration (日本語宣言書)

私は、米国法典第35編119条 (a) - (d) 項又は365条 (b) 項に基づき下記の、米国外の国の少なくとも一カ国を指定している特許協力条約365 (a) 項に基づく国際出願、又は外国での特許出願もしくは発明者証の出願についての外国優先権をここに主張するとともに、優先権を主張している、本出願の前に出願された特許または発明者証の外国出願を以下に、枠内をマークすることで、示しています。

Prior Foreign Application(s)
外国での先行出願

(Number) (番号)	(Country) (国名)
(Number) (番号)	(Country) (国名)

私は、第35編米国法典119条 (e) 項に基づいて下記の米国特許出願規定に記載された権利をここに主張いたします。

私は、下記の米国法典第35編120条に基づいて下記の米国特許出願に記載された権利、又は米国を指定している特許協力条約365条 (c) に基づく権利をここに主張します。また、本出願の各請求範囲の内容が米国法典第35編112条第1項又は特許協力条約で規定された方法で先行する米国特許出願に開示されていない限り、その先行米国出願書提出日以降で本出願書の日本国内または特許協力条約国際提出日までの期間中に入手された、連邦規則法典第37編1条56項で定義された特許資格の有無に関する重要な情報について開示義務があることを認識しています。

(Application No.) (出願番号)	(Filing Date) (出願日)
(Application No.) (出願番号)	(Filing Date) (出願日)

私は、私自信の知識に基づいて本宣言書中で私が行なう表明が真実であり、かつ私の入手した情報と私の信じることに基づく表明が全て真実であると信じていること、さらに故意になされた虚偽の表明及びそれと同等の行為は米国法典第18編第1001条に基づき、罰金または拘禁、もしくはその両方により処罰されること、そしてそのような故意による虚偽の声明を行えば、出願した、又は既に許可された特許の有効性が失われることを認識し、よってここに上記のごとく宣誓を致します。

I hereby claim foreign priority under Title 35, United States Code, Section 119 (a)-(d) or 365(b) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate, or Section 365(a) of any PCT International application which designated at least one country other than the United States, listed below and have also identified below, by checking the box, any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate, or PCT International application having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed.

Priority Claimed
優先権主張

<input type="checkbox"/> Yes はい	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No いいえ
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes はい	<input type="checkbox"/> No いいえ

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, Section 119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below.

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, Section 120 of any United States application(s), or Section 365(c) of any PCT International application designating the United States, listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States or PCT International application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code Section 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.56 which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT International filing date of application.

(Status: Patented, Pending, Abandoned)
(現況: 特許許可済、係属中、放棄済)

(Status: Patented, Pending, Abandoned)
(現況: 特許許可済、係属中、放棄済)

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Japanese Language Declaration
(日本語宣言書)

委任状 私は下記の発明者として、本出願に関する一切の手続きを米特許商標局に対して遂行する弁理士または代理人として、下記の者を指名いたします。
(弁理士、または代理人の指名及び登録番号を明記のこと)

POWER OF ATTORNEY: As a named inventor, I hereby appoint the following attorney(s) and/or agent(s) to prosecute this application and transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith: (list name and registration number)



022850

書類送付先

Send Correspondence to:



022850

直接電話連絡先: (名前及び電話番号)

Direct Telephone Calls to: (name and telephone number)

(703) 413-3000

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日付	Inventor's signature
住所	Toshiyuki KUDO
国籍	Sept. 12, 2001
郵便の宛先	Residence
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	Japan
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第二の共同発明者の氏名	Full name of second joint inventor, if any
第二の共同発明者の署名	Second joint inventor's signature
日付	Date
住所	Residence
国籍	Citizenship
郵便の宛先	Post Office Address

(第三以降の共同発明者についても同様に記載し、署名すること)

(Supply similar information and signature for third and subsequent joint inventors.)